

West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) Monthly Newsletter

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Issue 79

January 2018

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From the Secretary

January 2018

What's *Your* New Year's Resolution?

January and resolutions go hand in hand. Most resolutions address personal improvement. We resolve to eat less, exercise more, organize our paperwork, spend carefully, clean closets, etc. Some libraries even hold classes on making and keeping resolutions. If your track record is like mine, by Valentine's Day at the latest, New Year's resolutions are history.

But what if we resolved to make this year the best ever for our libraries; to make more people aware of the library; to offer more services?

What would it take?

Here are a few suggestions. I know you will think of more. If you want to share, post them on the Library Commission's [Facebook page](#) and/or [Twitter link](#).

Use what you have...and find what you don't.

- Ask, make a plan, and get to work; do something!

Exercise more – out in the community

- Get the library on agendas.
 - County Commission, Board of Education, and City Council meetings
 - Chamber of Commerce and social organizations
- Give updates about the library, even if no one asks for them. Show up prepared, highlight what you do for the community, and don't be afraid to ask for support.
- Provide programs at non-library venues.

Step out of your comfort zone

- Talk to an elected official about library services.
- Attend WVLA Legislative Day at the Capitol.
- Ask library users what they would like to see at the library.
- Ask non-users what would make them come to the library.
- Be involved in discussions of community issues.
- Be an active, contributing member of WVLA.
 - Volunteer for a committee
 - Submit a conference idea

Rethink, reorganize, redesign

- Rearrange furniture to create more, or different space.
- Paint the walls to breathe new life into your building.
- Weed the collection.
- Change displays often.

Strengthen Relationships

- Provide opportunities for people, including staff, to connect, explore, and learn together.
- Develop relationships with politicians and don't be afraid to let them know how their actions affect the people you serve.
- Involve everyone in programming.
- Thank the library trustees.
- Smile at teenagers.
- Find ways to say "yes"

Apply for a grant or award

- If you don't know where to start, check with WVLC, local teachers, the regional economic development council, United Way, etc.
- Nominate a library supporter for the [WVLC Library Champions award](#).
- Nominate a fellow librarian for [WVLC Librarian of the Year](#).

Get chased by zombies

- Don't look behind
- Keep moving forward – quickly

Karen Goff*WVLC Executive Secretary*

TRUSTEE TIPS

Troubled Waters?

In a perfect world, library Boards meet regularly, discuss civilly, and decide wisely. In the real world, that is not always the case. In the real world, Boards occasionally must navigate troubled waters. It happens often enough that United for Libraries has made available a webinar titled "Troubled Library Boards: Prevention and Survival."

Led by Sally Gardner Reed, former Executive Director of United for Libraries; Trustee Jo Beckwith from Illinois; and Stephen Bero, Director of the Algonquin (IL) Public Library, the webinar discusses:

- Best practices to prevent or minimize board problems.
- What can be done to get a wayward Trustee back on the right track.
- How to move forward as a high functioning team.

The cost of the webinar is \$75; \$50 for United for Libraries and Public Library Association members. Registration information is available at <http://www.ala.org/united/training/webinars/troubledboards>. If not a member, you will need to create a free ALA account.

If webinar cost is a barrier, apply for a WVLC Continuing Education scholarship at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018cg>. Don't let the "Application for Conference Grants" title stop you. Just enter "Troubled Library Boards webinar in the box titled "Other".

WVLC Announces New Awards for 2018



WVLC is accepting nominations for two new awards for 2018 - **Library Champions** and **Librarian of the Year**. Both awards are designed to honor librarians and others who have made significant contributions to the state's library community in the past year.

The **Library Champions** award is designed to recognize individuals, other than librarians and state and federal elected officials, who promoted Public Libraries in West Virginia in the past year. Up to 5 nominees will be selected to receive the award. **Librarian of the Year** will honor a single employee of a Public Library for his or her contributions to the library community in 2017.



Both awards will be presented on February 5, 2018 during the WVLA Library Day Reception at the Culture Center. You can make nominations to both by completing the [Library Champions Nomination Form](#) and the [Librarian of the Year Nomination Form](#).



Happy Retirement!



The West Virginia Library Commission would like to congratulate Network Services Director Harlan White on his well-earned retirement. After 23 years developing and building the State Library Network, Harlan decided to hang up his internet spurs on December 22nd.

Harlan began his career with the WVLC in 1994, and over the next two decades was a driving force in the creation of the state library network, which now provides internet service to 148 libraries in West Virginia. In retirement, Harlan is expected to keep himself busy hiking, fishing, and handling whatever chores his wife Sharon has planned for him.

Harlan, thank you for the expertise you brought to the State Library Network, your hard work, and of course, your humor. **The WVLC won't be the same without you!**

WVLC Welcomes New Team Members

The West Virginia Library Commission would like to welcome the newest members of the WVLC family.

- **Ashley White** joins the team as an office Assistant with Special Services. Most recently, she worked in restaurant management in St. Albans, WV.
- **Crystal Cook** takes over as Information Systems Coordinator for Cabell County. She joins us from the Cabell County DHHR where she served as an Information Systems Assistant.
- **Gina Richardson** also joins the WVLC from the DHHR, where she was an Information Systems Assistant in Braxton County. Gina will serve as an Information Systems Coordinator for Network Services, working out of the Clarksburg area.

Ashley, Crystal, and Gina...welcome to the WVLC!

White Sulphur Springs Public Library Launches Annual Fundraising Drive



The White Sulphur Springs PL hopes to raise \$28,000 in its 2018 fund drive. Director Joann Hartzell says the money will be used to match the dollars provided by the WVLC and will cover annual operating costs. The fund raising drive includes donations from the public, book sales, renting the library's meeting room, and charges to make copies and send faxes.

The library is housed in the recently renamed Katherine Coleman Johnson building in White Sulphur Springs.

Anderson Wins Scholarship

The Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) has awarded one of 20 national scholarships to Beth Anderson, Director of the Burnsville Public Library. The scholarships are available to staff working in rural and small public libraries in the U.S. It allows Beth to take part in a three day RIPL event in Atlanta, Georgia which offers intensive, hands-on workshops focusing on strategic planning, management, and communication. Congratulations, Beth!



2017 WVLC Reports Now Available

The 2017 Annual Report and the 2017 Statistical Report are now available on the WVLC website. To view the latest reports, please visit the [Library Commission Publications page](#). Annual and Statistical Reports from prior years, as well as archived Library Lookout editions, are also available.

Thoughts and Prayers to the Family of Bruce Cressler



Former Helvetia Public Library Director Bruce Cressler died last month after a long illness. Bruce spent 8 years as director of the library before retiring in 2017.

Prior to his library career, he worked as a news journalist, editor and photographer in the 1970s. Later, he pursued a career in product development, marketing, and sales of pathology and biomedical laboratory equipment and software throughout the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. He was also an amateur radio operator.

Bruce was 66 years old.



Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grants



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting applications for the second cycle of the FY 2018 [National Leadership Grants for Libraries \(NLG-L\)](#) and [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program \(LB21\)](#). This is the final opportunity to apply for the FY 2018 NLG-L and LB21 grant programs.

The NLG-L program invests in projects that address challenges faced by the library and archive fields and generate results such as new tools, research findings, or models that can be widely used. The LB21 program supports professional development and training projects for libraries and archives.

Applicants have through February 1, 2018, to submit their two-page preliminary proposals.

From the preliminary proposals received by the February 1 deadline, IMLS will select applicants and invite them to submit full proposals by June 8, 2018.

See the grant program pages for more information about the types of activities that can be funded through [NLG-L](#) or [LB21](#).

Grant Opportunity



Public libraries are invited to apply for **Revisiting the Founding Era**, a nationwide project that will use historical documents to spark public conversations about the Founding Era's enduring ideas and themes and how they continue to influence our lives today.

Up to 100 U.S. public libraries will be selected to host programs related to the American Revolution and the early years of the nation. Participating libraries will receive:

- 10 copies of a 100-page reader containing selected documents from the lauded Gilder Lehrman Collection, one of the great archives in U.S. history
- \$1,000 to help implement discussion groups and other public programs
- Training, resources and support

Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2018. For more information and to apply, visit the [American Library Association website](#).



Stories From The ALA

Librarians Honored



10 librarians have been honored with the prestigious 2017 **I Love My Librarian Award** for their outstanding public service contributions. Selected from more than 1,100 nominations submitted by library users nationwide, including educators and members of the public, the winning librarians are being recognized for their leadership in transforming lives and communities through education and lifelong learning.

The 1,125 nominations detail how librarians working in public, school, college, community college or university

libraries have gone above and beyond to improve community members' lives. In the United States there are 190,000 librarians working in libraries of all types, and only 100 librarians have been selected for this distinguished honor since the award's inception in 2008.

The 2017 award winners include an academic librarian who preserves the stories and histories of the LGBTQ community; a public librarian who helps economically disadvantaged families connect with social services; a school librarian who inspires a love of reading in students who are new to the country or speak English as a second language; and a public librarian who helps under served teens explore their passions and prepare for college.

For more information and a complete list of this year's winners, visit the ALA's [i Lovelibraries website](#).

WV Coding Challenge

Students will win \$8,000 in prizes



Calling all students! Even if you have never tried coding, this challenge is for you. The West Virginia Coding Challenge is being offered in recognition of national [Computer Science Education Week](#).

Students can enter by following three simple steps:

1. Follow us on social media (EduAlliance)
2. Create your own coding project
3. Show us by using #CodingWV

The contest will run from December 1, 2017 to January 25, 2018. The winning West Virginia students in PreK through 12th grade will receive a \$500 gift card from either Walmart or Amazon.

For more information contact Quinten Burton at 304-342-7865 or quinten@educationalliance.org.

Learn More

Take a moment to think about your elevator speech. Is it overused? Tired? Outdated? Vamp it up with low-tech, on-trend storytelling. Barbara Alvarez' Storytelling for Community Relationships provided by Infopeople addresses the reasoning behind effective storytelling, citing a wonderful TedTalk *Why Storytelling Matters* by Garr Reynolds as background information.



Ms Alvarez has been an active storyteller for years. In this webinar, she gives business models, strategies and examples of how to put some life into your community conversations. Storytelling not only illuminates activity in the library, but also encourages feedback. To have effective patron-based (community-based) libraries, you need to hear all perspectives, not just from the customers you have, but the customers you want! You'll find that building trust is a wonderful side effect.

If you have any questions or would like to brainstorm ideas, please contact me at melissa.j.brown@wv.gov or 1-800-642-9021.

Melissa Brown

WVLC Continuing Education Consultant

WVLC Notices

- **January 1 - New Year's Day:** WVLC is closed
- **January 10:** 1st day of 2018 West Virginia Legislature
- **January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** WVLC is closed
- **Boone-Madison Public Library:** Tara Holstein is the interim director
- **Hundred Public Library:** Tina McBee is the new director
- **St. Albans Public Library:** Michelle Ross is the new Branch Manager





JOIN
and
ADD
to the DISCUSSION!

WVLC Book Discussion GROUP

Featured Book of the Month!

Wonder

by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an

ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *WONDER* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness" —indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.



Contact Library & Development Services to request this book for your book group! 304-558-2041 or susan.p.bailey@wv.gov.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

New Director's Moment

by Melissa Brown, Continuing Education Consultant

Staying on top of the newest online safety risks and measures is challenging. As leaders of Digital Information Literacy, library directors must be diligent to protect themselves and to teach patrons. Infopeople has provided a webinar with current information on this subject - [Protecting Your Online Privacy: Risks and Strategies](#) by Laura Solomon.



Ms. Solomon has written three books about social media, specifically for libraries. Her latest book is titled *The Librarians' Nitty-Gritty Guide to Content Marketing*. The webinar shows potential risk categories of online activity, how some libraries are already dealing with online privacy issues and specific strategies and tools for managing and protecting online privacy for you and your patrons. The webinar is thoughtful with its explanations and easy to follow with a good pace, not peppered with jargon. There is a handout included with useful links.

[Click Here to Read More About the WVLC Continuing Education Requirements for Directors & Staff](#)

	View Upcoming & Archived Webinars CLICK HERE 
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	View Upcoming Webinars & Training CLICK HERE 
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Highlighted Content from WebJunction

These resources can help you strengthen your library and services to the community, explore them today!

- [Two Opportunities to Develop Tech Skills with Geek Squad Academy and Best Buy Teen Tech Centers](#): Best Buy Community Relations and the Best Buy Foundation offer community support for libraries to connect underserved youth to technology education through their two signature programs, Geek Squad Academy and the Best Buy Teen Tech Centers. Both programs are currently accepting new proposals.
- [Civil Legal Aid Program at the Cleveland Public Library Meets Local Needs](#): The Cleveland Public Library and The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland had been working in partnership for years, offering several legal aid workshops on general topics that were open to the public. But Aaron Mason, the library's Assistant Director, Outreach and Programming Services, saw an opportunity and a need to develop a more in-depth program. Mason knew the intention behind the workshops was good, but didn't think they were having maximum impact for patrons. He determined that the library could serve more people and address more community needs by transitioning to monthly legal aid clinics that could serve individuals one-on-one.

Upcoming Webinars

If you can't attend a live session, all WebJunction webinars are recorded and available for free in the [course catalog](#).

Citations Needed: Build Your Wikipedia Skills While Building the World's Encyclopedia

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1 hour

[Register here.](#)

Librarians have the power to make Wikipedia better and more reliable. Once you understand how this collaborative, community-driven encyclopedia works, you'll see the value of contributing your expertise and knowledge. [Wikipedia Library's annual #1lib1ref](#) ("One Librarian, One Reference") campaign provides a simple and fun way to get started.

Presented by: **Monika Sengul-Jones**, Wikipedian-in-Residence, OCLC, and **Emily Jack**, Community Engagement Librarian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries.

From Facilities to Trauma: Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency at Your Library

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ 1.5 hours

[Register here.](#)

Recent catastrophes have highlighted the important role public libraries play in enhancing their community's resiliency and post-disaster recovery efforts. Many community leaders now view libraries as ad hoc disaster recovery centers and recognize librarians as Information First Responders. This presentation will help you and your library embrace this new role as Information First Responders, who quickly enable people to get back to work, back to their lives, and ensure recovery of the community's economic life. Learn what you need to prepare before disaster strikes, guided by New Jersey State Library's [Disaster Preparedness & Community Resiliency Toolkit](#), which has been emergency-tested by libraries. Your library can be at the forefront in providing that safe haven in times of crisis and helping your community return to normal life.

Presented by: **Michele Stricker**, Deputy State Librarian for Lifelong Learning, New Jersey State Library.

Events · WebJunction Events Calendar

WebJunction Events Calendar

To view a complete list of past WebJunction webinars, go to: [WebJunction Event Archives](#)



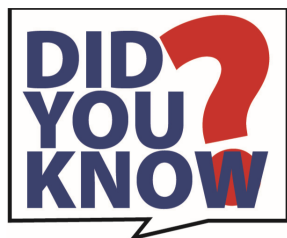
WebJunction webinars are live audiovisual programs that are conducted online via WebEx web conferencing. Anyone who has an internet connection can participate, listening to the audio broadcast through speakers or headset, or via phone. These **free** events allow you to meet and learn from library leaders and fellow library practitioners.

WebJunction's catalog of courses and webinar archives on library topics is now open to all library workers and volunteers across the nation. A certificate of completion is provided after you have completed any course or webinar that you enroll in. [Catalog »](#)

[Click to View »](#)

The Raleigh County Public Library was established in Beckley in 1924. 14 years later, the library moved into the newly constructed Memorial Building, where it stayed until its current facility opened in 1977. Over the years, branch libraries were added in Sophia in 1976 and in Shady Spring in 2000. The library system now serves nearly 80,000 residents in

Raleigh County.



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- January:** National Braille Literacy Month
January 1: New Year's Day
January 2: National Science Fiction Day
January 13: National Sticker Day
January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16: Appreciate a Dragon Day
January 28: Data Privacy Day



You're the Super Star!

Have a story to tell or a photo to share?
 Click Here to Email Us!

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Karen E. Goff

Executive Secretary

West Virginia Library Commission

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